

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Madam Speaker:

We write to request that the Kucinich amendment that would grant a waiver of the application of ERISA to a state single payer plan be included in the Manager's amendment to H.R. 3962.

Like many other important reforms included in the underlying bill, the Kucinich amendment is the object of attack by the insurance industry. Unlike other reform measures, Leadership has chosen to strip the Kucinich amendment of the protection it deserves. In view of the power of the insurance industry to divide and conquer good ideas for reforming health insurance in this country, we believe that a simple vote on the floor would be a setback for the amendment and for single payer health care, because it would be exposed to the full brunt of the insurance industry's attacks.

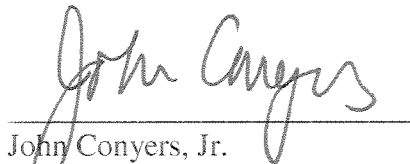
Progressives are firm and emphatic in their support for the single payer health care. A single payer, Medicare for All health system is the best way to control costs, drive up quality and extend care to all. Allowing states to opt for a single payer plan is a compromise. It is an incremental reform. But it allows the country to move incrementally in the direction that is needed.

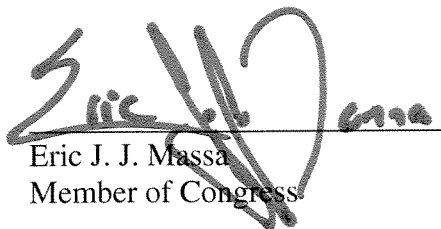
The Kucinich amendment strikes a balance between where we need to go and where we can go in the next week. We urge you to include it in the Manager's amendment.

Sincerely,

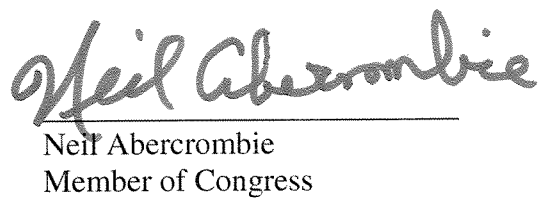


Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress

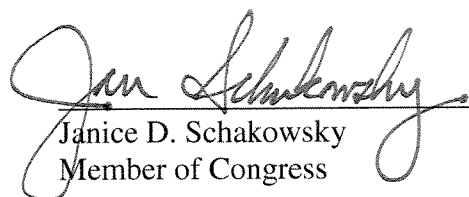
  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



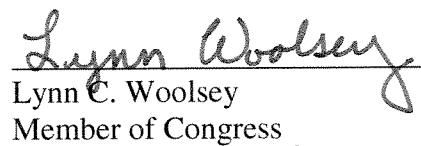
Eric J. J. Massa  
Member of Congress



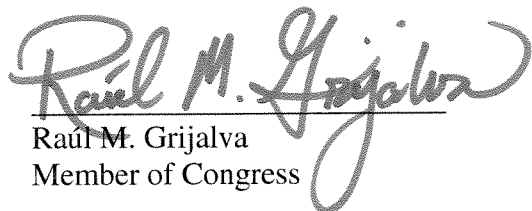
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress